

JSWALKER & COMPANY, INC

416.A West John Street

Matthews, NC 28105

tel 704.849.2100

fax 704.849.2122

www.jswcoinc.com



January 16, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

I write concerning the settlement reached between the federal government and Microsoft Corp. last November. The settlement, while it may not be perfect, is a far better alternative to continued litigation between the parties and is very reasonable. Litigation has hurt innovation and it is time to move forward.

I am pleased Microsoft has agreed to so many conditions that will "level the playing field" within the technology industry. Its assurance not to retaliate against computer makers who ship software that competes with any aspect of its Windows operating system represents a new beginning for the industry. Equally important, Microsoft has agreed not to retaliate the software and hardware developers who will be developing and promoting software that competes with Windows or that runs on software that competes with Windows. These two components, while only a small cross-section of the settlement, will be very good for innovation and very good for the consumer.

I hope the few groups who wanted Microsoft broken up and are unsatisfied with the settlement because it leaves it intact, are not successful in their attempts to upset the finalization process. It is my hope the settlement will take affect as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Sebastian Ganson
Director of Development